64.	Shahjajanpur
65.	Jhansi
66.	Jaunpur
XXIII. West Bengal	
67.	Birbhurm
68.	North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas
69.	Malda
70	Nadia
XXIV. Sikkim	
71.	Sikkim

[English]

Export of Turmeric

*595. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India enjoys the monopoly in turmeric in the world market and annual export of turmeric is around 5 per cent of its total production;

(b) if so, the reasons for this low percentage in the exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world accounting for 6.60 lakhs M.T. (1994-95). Our annual exports are 27000-28000 M.T., which is 4-5 per cent of the total domestic production.

(b) Domestic demand for turmeric in the country is very high due to its various applications in food/non-food segments. However, more than 70 per cent of the total world demand is met by the supplies from India.

(c) Some of the steps undertaken to boost exports of spices, including turmeric are sponsoring trade delegations abroad, inviting overseas buyers fro interaction with exporters, participation in trade fairs, awarding of logo/spice house certificate in recognition of maintenance of quality, assistance for investment in processing facilities, providing financial assistance for setting up laboratories, technology transfer, process upgradation and product developments facilities.

Investment in Kuwait

*596. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian companies have applied for settig up their units in Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the total investment being made by the Indian investors;

(c) whether the Government have given permission to Indian Companies to set upo their units in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). Approval has been granted to two Indian companies for setting up their units in Kuwait in the field of power, desalination plant and telecommunications. The total equity investment approved in these two units is equivalent to Rs. 179.52 lakhs. No application from Indian companies for making investment in Kuwait is pending.

Assistance to Exporters through Spices Board

*597. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board has formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to the spice exporters;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme ;

(c) whether the quality of spices has lowered due to lack of high technique;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide grant-in-aid for setting up new technology to the spices processing industrialists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Spices Board is implementing a number of schemes with financial assistance for the benefits of exporters. These include :

(i) Grant-in-aid for technology transfer & process upgradation;

(ii) Reimbursement of air freight/courier for sending spice samples abroad;

(iii) Grant-in-aid for printing brochures

(iv) Providing interest free loan to exporters of spices with approved brands in consumer packs to create a brand image for branded consumer packs of spices in overseas markets;

(v) Grant-in-aid for developing consumer packs for export purpose;

(vi) Providing grant-in-aid for setting up/upgradation of quality control laboratories.

(vii) Grant-in-aid for purchase of equipment for monitoring pesticide residue;

(viii) Grant-in-aid for acquiring ISO 9000 accreditation;

(ix) Providing assistance for constructing warehousing facilities at major spice producing centres;

(x) Scheme for manufacturer exporters of spices for purchase of power generator;

(xi) Scheme for installation of alternative power generating system by spice house certificate/logo awarded exporters;

(xii) Reimbursement of part of the cost of packaging for, export of spices in logo packs.

(c) No Sir, on the country continued increase in exports of spices, particularly value added spices indicates an overall improvement in quality.

(d) and (e). Schemes implemented for technological and quality upgradation are :

(1) The Board is providing financial assistance to spices processing units to adopt and absorb new technology to develop new products as per the market requirements and consumer expectations.

(2) In order to equip exporters to have their own testing and analysing facilities, the Board is rendering following financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid :

(i) Purchase of basic testing and analysing facilities in the quality control loboratory;

(ii) Purchase of equipment for pesticide residue analysis;

(iii) Encouraging spices exporters to have ISO 9000 accreditation for their units through financial assistance.

(3) Awarding Indian Spices Logo to exporters meeting quality standards of spices as a mark quality.

(4) Awarding Spice House Certificate to exporters/ processors having cleaning, grading, processing and warehouse packing facilities as a mark of producers of quality spices.

Diversification of Jute Industry

*598. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has recently been taken to diversity the jute products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any 'Status paper' is being prepared which throws light on all the operational aspects of this sector, especially on the marketing of raw jute and role of Jute Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). In 1992 Government approved a 5 year national programme for jute sector with the financial assistance from UNDP. Under this programme an assistance of the order of US$ 23 million from UNDP in conjunction with Government of India's matching contribution has been provided. The major objectives of this programme are to enhance the welfare of jute farmers by implementing schemes to improve productivity facilitate the diversification of the jute sector by developing new technology, promote employment opportunities by encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing facilities for jute-based items, assist development of the indigenous machinery manufacturing sector for catering to the diversified products programme both in the textile-related and non-textile areas and strengthen R&D efforts in these fields. As a part of this programme institutions are concentrating on product development based on new technologies and manufacturing process, new marketing strategies and R & D activities. At present, around 20 projects are under implementation at various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing projects are use of jute for paper production, jute based needle-punched carpets, development of multi-component yarn from wool, jute and other fibres by using friction spinning technology for floor coverings, bankets and knitwear, human resource development etc.

(c) Two such status paper has been prepared under the UNDP Programme.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies in Non Priority Areas

*599. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign companies to set up wholly owned subsidiaries in non-priority areas in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government have formulated guidelines for Foreign Investment Promotion Board in this regard and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have been allowing 100% Indian subsidiaries of the foreign companies as per the existing foreign investment policy, the sectoral policies and guidelines, the need for investment & technology for different sectors & the merit of the proposal submitted for consideration.

(c) and (d). Detailed guidelines are under preparation.